

2016 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Glenwood Ranger District
Gila National Forest

Whiterocks Allotment #401

Prepared By: /s/ DK Brown **Date:** 01/06/2016
District Range Staff

Approved By: /s/ Silas Davidson for Anne Casey **Date:** 01/06/2016
District Ranger

Annual Operating Instructions

I. INTRODUCTION

Kendall Brown and Andrew Bryant (Forest Service) met with Alan Tackman (permittee) on January 6, 2016 to discuss management of the Whiterocks Allotment during the current grazing year and to plan grazing management for the upcoming grazing season. These Annual Operating Instructions are the result of that discussion.

Term Permitted Livestock Numbers:

Permittee	Number & Class of livestock	Dates
Deep Creek Ranch, Inc (Alan Tackman)	45 Cow/Calf	03/01 – 02/28

Authorized Use:

Permittee	Number & Class of livestock	Dates
Deep Creek Ranch, Inc (Alan Tackman)	45 Cow/Calf	03/01 – 02/28

Pasture Rotations:

Class of Livestock	Rotation Date	Allotment	Pasture
Cow/Calf	03/01 – 07/01	Whiterocks	Lower/Middle/Upper
Cow/Calf	07/01 – 08/15	Whiterocks	Upper
Cow/Calf	08/15 – 09/15	Whiterocks	Middle
Cow/Calf	09/15 – 02/28	Whiterocks	Lower/Middle/Upper

The above schedule for stocking the allotment depends upon the availability of forage and water. Some flexibility in the above pasture rotation dates will be allowed for justifiable causes such as weather conditions, livestock management needs, and range conditions. If there is a need to deviate from the above pasture rotation schedule by more than 15 days, you must notify the Ranger District of the proposed change in the pasture rotation date and the reason for the change. A deviation from the above schedule of more than 15 days must be approved verbally or in writing. Credit/Refund applications will not be processed unless District personnel have been notified either in advance or at the time of removal of stock.

II. MANAGEMENT OF LIVESTOCK

You are responsible for monitoring water availability and forage utilization. It is your responsibility to move your livestock when sufficient water is no longer available or when proper forage utilization is achieved in a pasture. You are responsible for keeping track of and maintaining control of your livestock. In the event your livestock are found to be out of the scheduled pasture, you will be required to find, gather, and return your animals to the proper pasture as soon as possible.

III. IMPROVEMENT MAINTENANCE

All range improvements assigned in the 10-year Term Grazing Permit are to be maintained in

a functioning condition. In the event these improvements cannot be brought up to a functioning condition, you should notify the Range Staff at the Glenwood Ranger District to schedule them for reconstruction as funds become available.

You would like to maintain the following earthen tanks this year: Pasture Tank (Bull Pasture), Jones Draw (on boundary of Middle and Lower Pasture), Whiterocks Tank (Upper Pasture). If weather conditions allow (tanks need to be dry) you plan on cleaning/maintaining these tanks in 2015. Work with Kendall to provide the necessary clearances.

The Forest Service may have a water right to apply to Indian Hill well. We will investigate opportunities to redrill/repair the well. Once we have reliable water in this area, we will work together to design additional pipelines to water the Lower & Middle pastures.

V. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Fire: Branding and warming fires should be used with good judgment - not on windy days or during times when fires are specifically restricted. The Glenwood District may allow naturally ignited fires to burn on the district this coming year. We will notify you if we plan to let a fire burn on your allotment.
2. Heavy Equipment Use: Please notify district well in advance of any plans to use heavy equipment so that necessary clearances and/or permits can be obtained. You will be notified by the district when you can proceed.
3. Credit/Refund: Any credit or refund applications for grazing fees must be made as far in advance as possible. Credit/Refund applications are not retroactive and will be approved only if the District Ranger is notified of livestock removal, prior to, or at the time, the livestock are taken off the allotment. **You will be required to provide your Social Security or Tax ID number in order for a refund to be processed.**
4. Salting and Supplemental Feeding:
 - a. Feeding of bulk feeds or hay on National Forest land will not be permitted unless a proven need to use the supplements is shown, and a detailed plan is developed and approved.
 - b. Feeding of vitamin or mineral supplements, protein blocks, molasses licks, etc. on National Forest land is permitted when used in the same manner as salt.
 - c. Salting practices will be in agreement with the 10-Year Term Grazing Permit. Salt will be placed in areas of available feed to help draw cattle to them. Salt will not be placed within ¼ mile from water and/or in natural concentrations areas which receive heavy grazing use.

V. ALLOTMENT STATUS

The Allotment Management Plan for this allotment may need some updates to meet Forest Plan standards and guidelines. At the present time, direction for management on this allotment will be documented in these Annual Operating Instructions.

VI. OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED

You indicated that you are in favor of managed wildfire on your allotment as long your cattle and management are taken into account. Your concerns will be considered when/if a wildfire

occurs and management decisions are being made. Necessary changes to this AOI to accommodate fire management will be made at that time.

Permittee uses orange ear-tags in the right ear.

VII. UTILIZATION MONITORING

Monitoring of herbaceous forage will be conducted by ocular estimate of use within a pasture. When necessary, verification of ocular estimates will be conducted using common methodology such as weigh/clip, grazed plant numbers, or stubble height. Grazing use will be described in the following utilization categories.

Qualitative Grazing Intensity Category	Use of Forage by Weight	Qualitative Indicators of Grazing Intensity
Light to no-use	< 30%	Only choice plants and areas show use: there is no use of poor forage plants.
Conservative	31-40%	Choice forage plants have abundant seed stalks: Areas more than a mile from water show little use: About on third to one half of primary forage plants show grazing on key areas.
Moderate	41-50%	Most of accessible range shows use: Key areas show patch appearance with one half to two thirds of primary forage plants showing use: Grazing is noticeable in zone 1-1.5 miles from water.
Heavy	51-60%	Nearly all primary forage plants show grazing on key areas: Palatable shrubs show hedging: Key areas show a lack of seed stalks: Grazing is noticeable in areas over 1.5 miles from water.
Severe	61 +%	Key areas show a clipped or mowed appearance (no stubble height): Shrubs are severely hedged: There is evidence of livestock trailing to forage: Areas over 1.5 miles from water lack stubble height.

Holechek, J.L. and D. Galt. 2000. Grazing Intensity Guidelines. Rangelands 22(3), pg 11-14.

Utilization monitoring will normally coincide with pasture moves of livestock. The percent grazing use will be documented at that time. The following dates have been scheduled for monitoring on the allotment. You are strongly encouraged to participate in monitoring.

Monitoring schedule

Pasture	Monitoring Date	Allowable Use	Key Area
Lower/Middle/Upper	06/30	Conservative (31 – 40%)	Pasturewide

If you observe utilization levels approaching moderate intensity (40% or greater use) you will need to take action for making changes to the grazing in that area. There are many actions that can be taken, such as pasture moves, locating your livestock on different waters, moving of salt and supplements, etc. We will work with you in order to insure that any actions taken are appropriate.

If unforeseen operational conditions require a change in the management specified in this AOI please contact rangeland management personnel at the Glenwood Ranger District. Change requests should be made in advance so that field inspections (if necessary) can be conducted. Approval of changes to this AOI may be verbal or written, depending on the nature of the change requested. Verbal changes will be documented to your file for record keeping purposes. Failure to follow the instructions provided in this AOI, or other instructions (verbal or written) of a Forest Officer may lead to adverse action against your Term Grazing Permit (Part 1, Section 3 of your Term Grazing Permit).